10/555854

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HM-667PCT

Applicant(s) : Dirk Schmidt, et al

Serial No. : NOT YET KNOWN (PCT/EP04/04830)

Int. Filed

: May 6, 2004

For

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR COOLING OR QUENCHING

SLABS AND SHEETS WITH WATER IN A COOLING

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In advance of the first office action, please amend the claims as follows: